

Lockport Historic District, Stone Arch Bridge
Spanning the Des Plaines River at Ninth Street
Lockport
Will County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-16-B

HAER
ILL,
99-LOCK,
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

LOCKPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT
STONE ARCH BRIDGE
HAER IL-16-B

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ILL,

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9-

Date: 1868-1869, altered ca. 1903

Location: Spanning the Des Plaines River channel, at Ninth Street

Designed by: unknown; alterations by the Chicago Sanitary Commission, Isham Randolph, C.E. Chief Engineer

Owner: City of Lockport, Illinois

Significance: The original Stone Arch Bridge was constructed in 1868-69, and provided access from Lockport to the western part of Will County and to Kendall County. The bridge has seven arches of approximately 28 feet each, and was built of local limestone. As constructed, the bridge also had stone parapets measuring about 4-1/2 to 5-1/2 feet high. The piers are reinforced with stone buttresses which, in turn, are protected by timbers from ice floes, barges, etc. The opening of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in 1900, and the concern about possible flooding led to alterations in about 1903. The Chicago S&S Canal was extended for an additional three miles, and dikes constructed along either side so the canal could be raised as much as fifteen feet above the surrounding area. The embankment was of concrete, with an earthen fill. The parapets on the bridge were removed, and the grade of the crossing raised with poured concrete. The arches remained intact.

Transmitted By: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984